

EXHIBIT 4  
DATE 1/27/11  
RE Gov. Office



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<http://www.medamembers.org>

*MEDA represents over 230 members who are actively involved in local economic activity, community development, job retention and job creation for Montana.*

**January 27, 2011**

**TO: Chairman Walter McNutt and members of the House Appropriations Committee**

**RE: Support of Continuing Investment in Governor's Office of Economic Development**

MEDA was an early on advocate of raising the profile of economic development activity in the state by having a strong presence in the Governor's Office in order for Montana to be competitive with our fellow states.

On the world stage, businesses expect governments to be supportive. There is no higher sign than to have the Governor and his personal representatives at the table. On a statewide level, there is nothing more supportive of local efforts to know we have a conduit to the day-to-day decision making necessary to closing deals and creating jobs in Montana.

MEDA strongly urges your support of the continued funding of the Governor's Office of Economic Development as it has been a good partner since its inception and is essential to building business bridges and creating jobs for Montana.

Signed,

Jim Davison,  
President

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# MONTANA

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## AMBASSADORS

January 27, 2011

**TO: Chairman Walter McNutt and members of the House Appropriations Committee**

**RE: Support of Continuing Investment in Governor's Office of Economic Development**

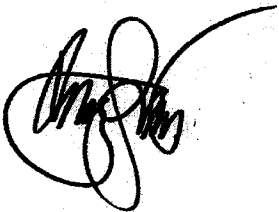
The membership of Montana Ambassadors is writing to support the work of and continued funding for the Governor's Office of Economic Development. The Montana Ambassadors was created in 1984 by then Governor Ted Schwinden. The Ambassadors is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization of leaders in business, education, the private sector and government with a common dedication to living and doing business in Montana, and furthering the best interests of the state.

During the past six years the Ambassadors have worked closely with the Governor's Office of Economic Development to assist the Governor in marketing and business recruitment efforts and serving as an ongoing link between the Governor and the business, economic development and education entities around the state and across the region. The Ambassadors and GOED have partnered together to expand the existing Ambassador network throughout the state and to create new, out-of-state, Montana Ambassador Remote Area Networks, modeled on the existing Montana Ambassadors program. Activities have begun in Seattle, Denver, and San Francisco to create out-of-state Montana Ambassadors Networks and increase the number of individual Montana Ambassadors representing the state's interests regionally.

There are planned efforts to establish additional chapters in Minneapolis, Austin, Dallas and other areas in the United States where expatriate Montanans can be found. The establishment of out-of-state Ambassador Chapters is consistent with the Governor's targeted economic development objectives to strengthen and diversify the economy, including the development of 'knowledge based' industries that can be based from anywhere with today's technology, and the growing interest in developing the alternative energy sources (wind, biodiesel, and clean coal technology) that Montana offers.

The Montana Ambassadors is committed to continue its work with the Governor's Office of Economic Development to further expand efforts to develop business outreach activities around the state and across the region. The Ambassadors believes that the Governor's Office of Economic Development has been and must continue to be an essential partner in growth and development of Montana's economy. We strongly urge your continued support for this office.

Sincerely,



Channing Hartelius  
President

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**January 27, 2011**

**TO: Chairman Walter McNutt and members of the House Appropriations Committee**

**RE: Support of Continuing Investment in Governor's Office of Economic Development**

The Montana BEAR Program is writing to support the work of and continued funding for the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Working together with the Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Department of Labor, and Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) the GOED has worked to make the BEAR (Business Expansion and Retention) Program available statewide.

The Montana BEAR Program is composed of local community entities with trained volunteer staff and minimal local financial support working together to provide local business owners and operators access to much needed resources allowing them to improve and/or expand their businesses. Through confidential survey tools and the ExecutivePulse database the BEAR program is able to identify and measure the needs and concerns of the more than six hundred businesses that have accessed its programs over the past four years.

Working closely with the Governor's office of Economic Development the Montana BEAR Program was instrumental in the development of the Incumbent Worker Training Grant Program which has proven to be a welcome and highly successful tool allowing small business owners to afford much needed training for their existing workforce. The need for this programming was largely substantiated by information gleaned through the BEAR process and the resulting success of the Incumbent Worker Training Program has provided further evidence of the essential role that the BEAR Program continues to play in business expansion and retention in Montana.

The continued success of the Montana BEAR Program in helping Montana's small businesses survive and thrive will rely heavily on its functional partnership with the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Because of our belief in this highly effective and successful partnership the Montana BEAR Program strongly encourages you continued support of and funding for the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "gloria O'Rourke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gloria O'Rourke, Coordinator

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